

House Bill 848

By: Representative Mitchell of the 88th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elections and primaries generally, so as to change the date of the presidential preference
3 primary in Georgia; to change the date by which the parties must submit names to the
4 Secretary of State for inclusion on the ballot and the date on which the Secretary of State
5 shall publish such list of names; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and
10 primaries generally, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-191, relating to parties
11 entitled to hold primaries and the dates for such primaries, as follows:

12 "21-2-191.

13 As provided in this article, a presidential preference primary shall be held in ~~2008~~ 2012 and
14 every four years thereafter for each political party or body which has cast for its candidates
15 for President and Vice President in the last presidential election more than 20 percent of
16 the total vote cast for President and Vice President in the state, so that the electors may
17 express their preference for one person to be the candidate for nomination by such person's
18 party or body for the office of President of the United States; provided, however, that no
19 elector shall vote in the primary of more than one political party or body in the same
20 presidential preference primary. Such primary shall be held on ~~February 5, 2008~~, March
21 6, 2012 and on the first Tuesday in ~~February~~ March every four years thereafter. A state
22 political party or body may by rule choose to elect any portion of its delegates to that
23 party's or body's presidential nominating convention in the primary; and, if a state political
24 party or body chooses to elect any portion of its delegates, such state political party or body
25 shall establish the qualifying period for those candidates for delegate and delegate alternate
26 positions which are to be elected in the primary and for any party officials to be elected in

27 the primary and shall also establish the date on which state and county party executive
28 committees shall certify to the Secretary of State or the superintendent, as the case may be,
29 the names of any such candidates who are to be elected in the primary; provided, however,
30 that such dates shall not be later than November 1 of the year preceding the year in which
31 the presidential preference primary is to be held."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.